

Appl. No.: 10/616,956

Amdt. Dated: August 12, 2005

Reply to Office Action of: March 23, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 – 24 (previously cancelled)

25.(currently amended) An outdoor feeder apparatus for wild birds comprising  
comprising:

- (a) a platform having an upper and lower surface and at least one low point and constructed and arranged to be connected at comprising a discharge opening opening, at each low point to an inlet opening in a hollow support means attachable to a base and adapted to provide in operation an unobstructed substantially vertical downward waste discharge path from each discharge opening to a replaceable collection container provided within the base; and a plurality of cover support members provided at selected points on the upper surface;
- (b) a cover member adapted to having an interior surface:
  - (i) be maintained in spaced-apart relationship from the platform by a plurality of cover support members provided at selected points on an upper surface of the platform, and
  - (ii) provide, in operation, vertical coverage over at least all of a horizontal plane connecting all points on a perimeter of the platform; and
- (c) hanging means provided on an interior surface of the cover adapted for releasably securing a bird feeding means; a plurality of cover support members provided at selected points on the upper surface of the platform to maintain the cover and platform in a spaced-apart relationship and adapted to provide substantially unimpeded access to the upper surface of the platform from all sides;

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(e) a base attachable to the hollow support means at the outlet opening;  
(f) a replaceable collection container provided within the base; and  
(g) hanging means provided on the interior surface of the cover member for  
releasably securing a bird feeding means  
wherein the hollow support means is constructed and arranged to provide in operation an  
unobstructed substantially vertical downward waste discharge path from each discharge  
opening to the replaceable collection container.

26.(original) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the hollow support means comprises a telescopic tube, wherein in an operating position

- (i) each section has a larger internal diameter than an immediately higher section, and
- (ii) securing means are provided to retain the sections in a selected position after adjustment.

27.(original) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein a ground-facing surface of the base is substantially open.

28.(original) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the base is provided with fixing means to secure it to a supporting surface.

29.(original) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein a sidewall of the base comprises access means for selectively removing and replacing the collection container.

30.(original) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the collection container has a water permeable base.

31.(original) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the water permeable base comprises a fine mesh.

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32.(original) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein dimensions of the platform are selected such that a minimum distance of the perimeter from an outer surface of the hollow support means exceeds a maximum limbspan of animals capable of climbing the hollow support means.